



**COUNTY OF ORANGE
HEALTH CARE AGENCY**

**PUBLIC HEALTH
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Information about insect repellent for children

An effective repellent will contain DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide also known as N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide).

- The protection time increases with the concentration of DEET, up to a concentration of 50%.
- A repellent containing 30% DEET is effective in adults; recently the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) stated that 30% DEET is as safe as 10% DEET when used according to the directions on the product label (see <http://www.aap.org/family/wnv-jun03.htm>).
DEET is not recommended for use in children under 2 months of age.

Repellents may irritate the eyes and mouth, so avoid applying repellent to the hands of children. When using insect repellent on children, apply sparingly to exposed skin. Apply it to your own hands and then rub them on your child. Avoid children's eyes and mouth and use it sparingly around their ears.

Do not apply repellent to skin under clothing. If repellent is applied to clothing, wash treated clothing before wearing again.

Keep repellents out of reach of children.

Whenever you use an insect repellent, be sure to read and follow the manufacturer's DIRECTIONS FOR USE, as printed on the product.

For more information on the use of insect repellent in children:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect_repellent.htm

American Academy of Pediatrics: <http://www.aap.org/family/wnv-jun03.htm>

National Pesticide Information Center: 1-800-858-7378 or <http://npic.orst.edu/>